

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 wherein the nucleic acid at 1792 is A or C.
2. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid 598 is Thr or Pro.
3. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:3.
4. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4.
5. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a molecule selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 384-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;
 - b) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 379-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;
 - c) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 389-685 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - d) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 379-685 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - e) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 449-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Pro or Thr;
 - f) A polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 449-685 of SEQ ID NO:4
 - g) A polynucleotide that encodes a fragment of a polypeptide described in (a-[[g]]f), wherein the fragment interacts with an IL-1R signal transduction factor;
 - h) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the polynucleotide of any

one of [[a)-g]] e-g under conditions of moderate stringency in 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS; wherein the isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that interacts with an IL-1R signal transduction factor;

- i) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that is at least 85% identical to the polypeptides described in a)-g), wherein the polypeptide interacts with an IL-1R signal transduction factor;
- j) A polynucleotide that is degenerate to any of the polynucleotides of a)-i).

6. (Original) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 5.
7. (Original) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid residue at 598 is Pro or Thr.
8. (Withdrawn) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4.
9. (Currently amended) A host cell comprising the vector of claim [[5]]6..
10. (Original) A process of preparing a polypeptide, the process comprising culturing a host cell of claim 9 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.
11. (Original) A process of preparing a polypeptide, the process comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector of claim 7 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.
12. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) A polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;
 - b) A polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4;
 - c) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 449-685 of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - d) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 449-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;
 - e) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 384-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;

- f) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 379-687 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid at 598 is Thr or Pro;
- g) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 379-685 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- h) A polypeptide comprising amino acids 389-685 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- i) A polypeptide comprising a fragment of a polypeptide of a)-h) wherein the fragment interacts with a signal transduction factor;
- j) A polypeptide that is at least 85% identical to a polypeptide of a)-g), wherein the polypeptide interacts with a signal transduction factor.

13. (Withdrawn) An antibody that is specific to a polypeptide of claim 10.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for an agonist or antagonist of IL-1 comprising:

Contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with an IL-1 family member and an IL-1 receptor family member in the presence of a candidate compound, and comparing the interaction of the polypeptide in the presence of the candidate compound with the interaction in the absence of the compound, whereby a compound that modulates the interaction of the polypeptide is identified as an agonist or antagonist of the polypeptide of claim 8.